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REMARKS1. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-50 were originally filed in the application. Claims 2-6, 17, 19-23, 26-30, 36-38, 40-41, and 48 are canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 7-16, 18, 24-25, 31-35 and 39, 42-47, and 49-50 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 15, 18, 24-25, 33, 39, and 46 are amended herein without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application. Reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action mailed May 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The present rejection is respectfully traversed for reasons of record. However, in view of the amendments to the claims, it is believed that the present rejection is moot and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

In the Office Action mailed May 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-24, 28, 36-41, and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph alleging that the claims fail to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejection for reasons of record. However, in view of the amendments to claims made herein, Applicants believe that the present rejection is moot and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

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4. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph as Communicated in the Examiner Interview of August 27, 2004

In the Office Action mailed May 28, 2004, the Examiner has not made a specific rejection of claims 25-27, 29-30, 32-35, 46-48, and 50. However, in an Examiner's interview on August 27, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the present claims are subject to an enablement rejection. Applicants traverse the present rejection because a specific rejection of how the claims are alleged not enabled was not made by the Examiner. However, in view of the amendments to the claims made herein, it is believed that the present rejection is moot and Applicants respectfully request that the present rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 7-16, 18, 24-25, 31-35 and 39, 42-47, and 49-50 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully traverse all claim rejections. The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner allow all pending claims.

No new matter is added by way of the present Response.

The Examiner is requested to contact the representative for the Applicants, to discuss any questions or for clarification.

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If there are any further fees associated with this response,  
the Director is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No.  
19-0962.

Respectfully submitted,

August 31, 2004  
Date

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